digital audio reproduction means coupled to said mass storage means;

a multitasking operating system for managing the formation of a multimedia environment, the operating system including a library of tools and services integrated in the storage means, the operating system being arranged to associate a task with respective peripheral means and assigning a first priority level to a display task and a second, lower priority level, to an audio task;

two temporary buffers for storing video and audio data, respectively, retrieved from said mass storage means, and for transmitting said video and audio data to the downstream display means and audio reproduction means through respective decompression means, said buffers being associated with status buffer means arranged to store state data representing activities relating to decompression tasks, said status buffer means being arrange to determine if the data entered into said buffers have been decompressed and transmitted downstream, and for providing a corresponding time status value; and

a scheduling module for the operating system arranged to read said status values and to feed the two buffers with said data in an alternating two-phase manner, the audio buffer having a size sufficient for storing an amount of data to avoid any lack of data when the video data buffer has been triggered based upon its priority level.

12.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said audiovisual reproduction system is linked, under control of the

- 2 -

operating system, to an audiovisual data distribution system via a telecommunications

network including a telecommunications modem and telecommunications lines.

13.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to

claim 11, wherein the operating system includes a priority resolution module and a

scheduling module for filling a storage request queue.

14.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to

claim 11, further comprising a temporary buffer for storage of data from a man/machine

interface, and a buffer that indicates the status of the task of the man/machine interface,

including a selection of zones on a touch screen, each zone corresponding to a choice

among the data displayed on the display means.

15.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to

claim 11, wherein the lowest priority task is the task of management by the manger for

managing the database for requiring new selections or implementing command settings

by remote control.

16.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to

claim 11, further comprising a system operating status file stored on a hard disk, said

status including data relating to the insertion of money, addition of a selection to the

queue, the end of a selection and data allowing the system to return to a specified location in case of an interruption caused by a fault.

17.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, wherein the display means includes a video monitor for reproduction of images of the audiovisual information and a touch screen for monitoring and assistance on which at least four control panels can be selected, the first control panel for helping customers find and select a desired title, a second control panel for control of the volume, bass, treble or panoramic control of the video monitor, a third control panel for scanning the title database to allow the system manager or owner to examine the database contining the available titles via the audiovisual data distribution network to control and retrieve said titles, and a fourth control panel for providing statistical estimates and calculations relating to the titles.

18.   (*New*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, further comprising a remote control device allowing at least one of audio volume control of the played selections, audio volume control of an auxiliary played source, a microphone start-stop command, a microphone audio volume control, balance control, control of base frequency level, control of treble frequency level, commands to cancel or skip a musical selection, panoramic effects command, including zoom forward and zoom back, and triggering of reset of the software program.